Eastern North Carolina endures the big hurricane called Floyd — Page 4

Volume 31, No. 11 November 1999

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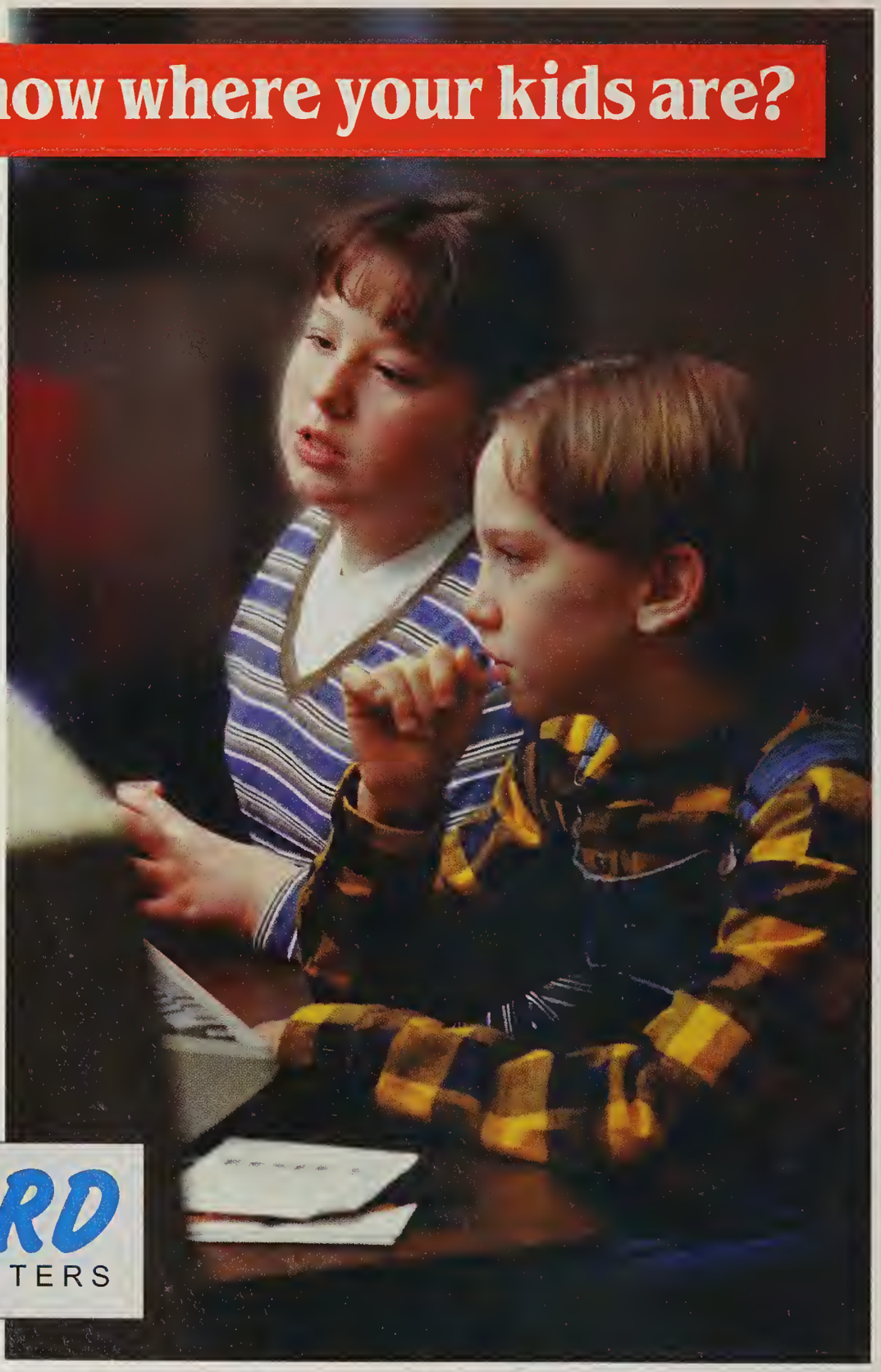

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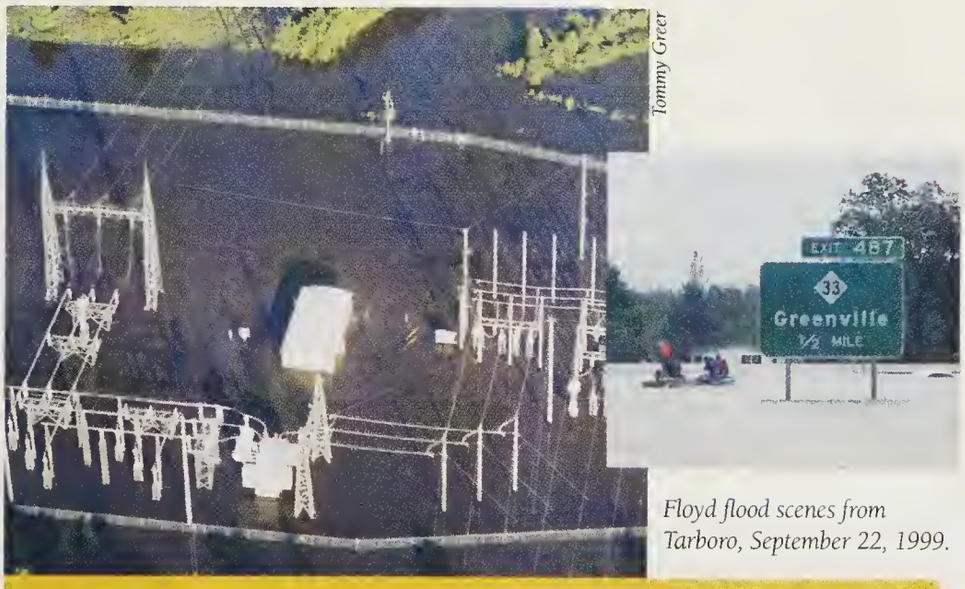

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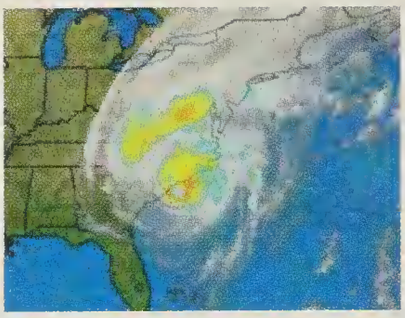

Floyd's Fury

As Hurricane Floyd rumbled toward the coast on Wednesday, Sept. 15, virtually all North Carolina residents from I-77 eastward fixed their attention on news of the storm forecast to be one of the biggest ever. Nearly all of us felt anxiety drill further into the pit of our gut as the storm approached, especially those who remember hurricanes Fran and Hugo.

Floyd's 110 to 115 mph winds that sound like a low, church organ tone that doesn't stop. By the time it made landfall near the Cape Fear River inlet south of Wilmington early in the morning of Sept. 16, Floyd was a strong Category II storm (96-110 mph winds). It moved quickly north-northeast through the state's coastal plain and made its way into Virginia considerably weaker later that evening.

While the wind caused structural damage in coastal areas such as the Crystal Coast and Oak Island, it was Floyd's rain that devastated a third of the state, mainly the coastal plain from Rocky Mount eastward. During 36 hours the storm dumped 26 inches of rain into rivers and creeks already swollen by the 10-plus inches Hurricane Dennis left behind just two weeks earlier.

All rivers in eastern North Carolina rose well beyond flood stage and reached the 500-year flood plain in some areas. Meandering creeks and streams turned into raging currents that swelled over their banks, submerging farms and fields ready for harvest, churchyards, airports, schools, vehicles, whole neighborhoods and downtown districts. Several extra inches of rain from Tropical Storm Harvey added to the misery less than a week after Floyd hit, causing floodwaters to rise even higher in some areas.

As of early October, Floyd had killed 48 North Carolinians. Over the course of the storm, some 40,000 people sought refuge in emergency shelters. The N.C. Department of Transportation estimates more than 600 roads were closed at the flood's peak, including major routes such as I-95, I-40, Highway 70 and Highway 64. As Carolina Country went to press in early October, many roads remain closed due to structural damage.

The storm closed schools, some for almost a month. East Carolina University in Greenville shut down for almost two weeks.

Ruined homes, small businesses and farms will probably push the economic cost of Floyd well beyond the $6 billion in damages caused by Hurricane Fran in the Piedmont in 1996. Early estimates showed housing damage at $250.2 million, with 3,680 homes destroyed, and more than 12,000 damaged. According to the N.C. Department of Agriculture, early estimates for agricultural losses had reached more than $1 billion.

Sixty-six counties were declared federal disaster areas. The most severely affected were Edgecombe, Lenoir, Duplin, Pitt and Jones.

Electric cooperative crisis response

About 267,500 N.C. electric co-op homes and businesses in 22 of the 27 electric co-ops in the state found themselves without power at some point during the storm's rise and fall. Of those, an estimated 4,000 households are not reconnectable due to structural damage.

Tommy Greer

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC set up temporary operations in a Tarboro shopping center parking lot.

During a major outage such as this, the co-ops' statewide office enacts its crisis management program, including round-the-clock staffing at the state's Emergency Operation Center, as well as its own central communications post in its Raleigh headquarters. The co-ops' material supply cooperative, Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA) in Raleigh, coordinates the delivery of equipment needed during power restoration, as well as the movement of other line crews who come to help the distressed co-ops.

Coordinating and dispatching the equipment and crews was not a problem, said TEMA's chief Lewis Hobson, but getting them to where they were needed was "damn near impossible."

But they managed to get there one way or another, Hobson said. "Trucks that could make it drove through high water. And they found the back ways to get where they needed to go. They asked local people who knew what was opened up. And the sheriff departments, they were a big help. Once they learn you are hauling equipment to get the power back on, they do everything they can to get you through."

Approximately 900 lineworkers from nine states came to assist North Carolina crews rebuild damaged distribution systems. They came from Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Ohio, Florida and Louisiana.

Michael Gery

Looking east at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC headquarters, Highway 64, and the surrounding neighborhoods all flooded.

Leisha Hodgson

Tending to wreckage and sand-strewn roads on Emerald Isle.

Fourteen North Carolina co-ops came to the aid of their brethren, once they had attended to damage in their service areas. Along with contract crews they employed, the co-op contingent came from Rutherford, EMC, Blue Ridge Electric, EnergyUnited, Surry-Yadkin EMC, Union Electric, Pee Dee EMC, Albemarle EMC, Randolph Electric, Piedmont EMC, Wake Electric, South River EMC, Pitt & Greene EMC, Central EMC and Tideland EMC.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's office and warehouse complex in Tarboro was inundated with five feet of water during the peak of flooding. Employees first set up in a shopping center parking lot, then in a metal warehouse in Pinetops, and are able to serve their members.

Beyond the call of duty

Co-op employees showed true grit and compassion during Floyd. With floodwaters rising, co-op staff as well as the members they serve faced the prospect of losing their homes.

When the Tar River flooded U.S. Highway 64 in Princeville near Tarboro, Jim Kinghorn, manager of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, and employees David Davis, Anthony Cannon, Bill Harrell and Steve Lewis had been moving trucks out of their headquarters facility when they discovered eight people from three homes stranded amid fast-moving floodwaters. Kinghorn and the others managed to carry the victims to nearby boats for safe passage to higher ground.

About an hour later, Kinghorn heard someone calling for help in the same area. He summoned employees Anthony Cannon and Joe Calhoun, who used a boat to rescue a neighboring resident from his rooftop.

Between Enfield and Scotland Neck, Frank and Varny Zaita of Surfside Beach, S.C., on their way home from Maryland, tried driving through the swollen area on back roads because I-95 was closed. Lost in Halifax County and surrounded by rising floodwaters, their car stalled, leaving them stranded. Jim Starling of Halifax EMC and a crew from Lee Electrical of Aberdeen, N.C., encountered the Zaita car. The crew managed to attach a cable to the couple's car and towed it to Enfield.

In Jones County near the coast, Jones-Onslow EMC foreman Worth Shipp and lineman Greg Murrill were driving through high waters on U.S. Highway 58 outside of Trenton, when they saw a motorist, whose car had been swept away, standing atop the vehicle, shouting for help. A quick call to 911 summoned emergency personnel, who, with Murrill, rowed out and rescued the driver. "He was very cold and scared," Shipp said. It must have been an especially dangerous spot, because about two hours later, a N.C. Department of Transportation worker drowned there.

A rescue in Brunswick County was photographed for the Sept. 27 issue of Newsweek magazine. The photo showed two men assisting a woman in floodwaters. They are Brunswick EMC's linemen Gary Long and James Hewett. Moments earlier, while preparing for the coming hurricane in their line trucks, they and two fellow linemen, Paul Gore and John Johnson, had watched the victim's car rise in high water. The linemen called for police help, parked safely and rescued not only the woman pictured, but also her mother and two young children, all of whom were headed in that car to a local shelter.

Disaster Relief Fund

Eastern North Carolina – its people and businesses -- will feel Floyd's effects for years to come. Gov. James Hunt appointed former state highway chief Norris Tolson as chair of the N.C. Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief Fund. The fund is administered by the United Way of North Carolina, who will direct all donations directly to storm victims.

Donations payable to Hurricane Floyd Relief Fund may be sent to: Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief Fund, Office of the Governor, 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301. A donations hotline has also been set up toll-free at 1-888-786-7601 for questions concerning the giving of money, items and time.

In addition to individual employee contributions, North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively donated $100,000 to the state's relief fund. North Carolina Electric Membership Corp. CEO Chuck Terrill (left) told the fund's chairman Norris Tolson (right) that "the damage we've seen in the field is the worst many of our members and employees, many of whom are life-long North Carolina residents, have ever seen. The rebuilding efforts will probably be the largest the state has undertaken."

Contributing to this report were Renee Gannon, Michael Gery, Debbie Gurganus, Dean Hudgins, Melissa Wicks, Nancy Dimmery, Jane Pritchard, Kim Tripp and Rick Martinez.

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The Carolina Country Collection

A seasonal gift guide

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Holly Berry Cookies

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup cold butter *(no substitutes)*
1 egg
1/4 cup milk
2/3 cup seedless raspberry jam

Glaze:
2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Red-hot candies
Green food coloring

In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In a small bowl, beat egg and milk. Add to crumb mixtures just until moistened. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until dough is easy to handle. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut with a 2-inch round cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 8-10 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool on wire racks. Spread jam on half of the cookies; top each with another cookie. In a small mixing bowl, combine sugar, milk and vanilla until smooth; spread over cookies. Decorate with red-hots before glaze is set. Let dry. Using a small new paintbrush and green food coloring, paint holly leaves on cookies. Yield: 2 dozen.

Your favorite holiday memories

I will never forget the time when...

NC Travel And Tourism

Of more than 200 holiday memories you sent us to consider this month, most arose from the year-end Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Memories of being with families at that time of year — or of missing them sorely — seem to lodge themselves solidly within us.

My Dad remembered waiting patiently as his grandfather grumbled while carving the Thanksgiving turkey. Suddenly his Grandpa stabbed the carving fork into the bird, stomped over to open a window, and hurled the cooked turkey out onto a frozen pond where some skaters took it on as their hockey puck.

I remember my little brother's wide-eyed look when he opened a really fine, 3-foot-long, scale-model, steel-bodied, rubber-wheeled, tractor-trailer truck Santa gave him one Christmas not that long ago. It took me three or four years, but I eventually gave him a less-than-memorable plastic rocket ship in exchange for that truck which I still display to this day.

Kathy Ullom Hickey, a member of South River EMC, remembers the sensation she felt as a 9-year-old during the Christmas season when she came home early one evening after rollerskating outside. The aroma from her mother's cooking, the tree lights sparkling, faint music from another room all caught up with her, and tears welled in her eyes. "I believe it was a child's sudden realization of the importance of family, God and love, and how very rich we were in all three," she wrote.

Memorable moments do happen when we least expect them. But if we pay extra attention to our families and friends and neighbors during these holidays — if we plan something special for someone else or just say "thank you" to someone who deserves it — we are more likely to cast a lasting memory.

Thanks to everyone who sent a holiday story to us. Look here next month when we announce a whole new series of reader stories and pictures we'll need you to send us for next year.

— Michael Gery

One gift for everyone

Growing up on a tenant tobacco farm in the 1940s was very difficult. There were hardly any toys that we did not make for ourselves. Money was very hard to come by and feed sack dresses were the thing of the day.

Christmas was a different story. Somehow, Mom and Dad always managed to have toys for us under the Christmas tree that we had put up in our three-room house.

On my seventh Christmas, my two-year-old brother and I could hardly wait for Santa to come. On Christmas Eve, my Dad really puzzled us. He borrowed a car and quickly rushed us off to our Grandpa's house. We had no explanation of why we were going. We only knew that something urgent was happening.

Early on Christmas morning Dad came to get us. When we returned to our house, we saw Mom lying in the bed that was in the front room. We looked at the Christmas tree. No toys! Now we were really confused.

Mom pulled the blanket down off a wriggling bundle behind her in the bed. Smiling, she said, "Here is your Christmas present." There beside her was a beautiful little black-haired baby girl. My aunt had delivered the baby on Christmas Eve while Dad was trying to get us to Grandpa's house and get the doctor into ours.

Needless to say, my brother and I were not very impressed at that moment. But through the years, I have realized that my sister was the most precious Christmas gift that I could have possibly received. She has been my best friend through many happy times and through many sorrows and heartaches. Looking back, I realize that our best memories are created by the gifts of family and friends.

Patty Swing
Lexington
EnergyUnited member

Your favorite holiday memories

Someone cares

I know about Christmas without any gifts or love. I was raised by my great-grandmother in a very impoverished home where there was no thought to Santa Claus or any other frivolous activities. Food was the priority. A $200 monthly social security check was the only income.

I remember growing up very confused because I tried to be good so Santa would bring me some toys. But he never did. I thought I was not worthy.

One day many years later, a co-worker was telling me all about her plans for the Christmas holiday. I mentioned that I had never had a visit from Santa or a filled stocking. She hugged me and told me to hang a stocking on my front porch Christmas Eve anyway.

I did as I was told and hung a little red stocking under my porch light.

I waited for hours, listening hard for steps on the porch, but no one came. I finally fell asleep, feeling very foolish. A grown woman, who no one cared about, waiting for Santa Claus!

Christmas dawned bright and cold. Just for the heck of it, I opened the front door and looked to see if the stocking was still hanging. What I saw made me drop to my knees. There were presents with my name on them! Clothing, fruit, towels, under-garments and toiletries. These items might as well have been made of gold! Someone would do this for me? No one had ever given me a Christmas gift before and here was a mountain of them all for me.

To say I cried for hours from the sheer joy of it doesn't begin to describe my feelings. My co-worker (my friend!) didn't know what she had done! A mere Christmas kindness had renewed my life.

That was about 14 Christmases ago. Every year I hang a stocking and know that I will be thrilled again. The gift of love awaits me. Someone cares about me!

Revonda Starnes
Granite Falls
EnergyUnited member

Grandmama's teddy

Ruth Cherry is a longtime, highly respected community volunteer leader. She was recognized for her service to electric cooperatives, as shown in this photo.

She put one foot in, then the other foot, and slowly pulled up the black lace teddy as the whole family watched in amazement. It was extremely tight and took a great deal of time for her to get it on, especially since she put it on over her Christmas sweatshirt and wool slacks!

The teddy was my grandmama's gag gift from the family. We knew she wouldn't get angry, but we certainly never let it cross our minds that she would model this sexy attire. The family laughed so hard, we cried.

It was my loving, 76-year-old grandmama, Ruth Cherry. To think that she allowed me to videotape her modeling that moment causes me to appreciate her even more.

Jarrett Jernigan
Rocky Mount
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC member

Who is watching?

It was the 1997 Christmas holidays. My daughter Amy and granddaughter Maison, who had just turned two years old, had been living in my home for the past six months.

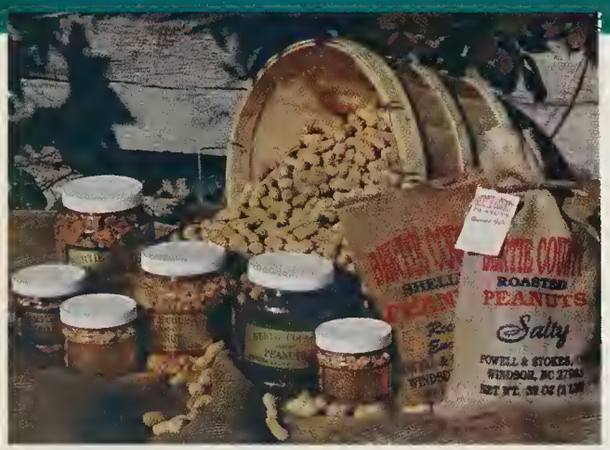
Christmas Eve came and it was time for Maison to open her gifts. Her last gift was a complete kitchen set: stove, sink, dishwasher, refrigerator, pots and pans. Maison was so exited.

I was surprised when she asked me for a towel. I gave her a dishtowel, and what she did I will never forget it. She threw the towel over her shoulder and went on with her cooking.

When I'm in the kitchen cooking or cleaning, I always throw a dishtowel over my shoulder to wipe my hands on. My 2-year-old granddaughter noticed this and decided if "Nanna" does it, it must be important.

I realized then just how much the things we do in our everyday life influence our children and our grandchildren.

Eleanor Lyons
Randleman
Randolph EMC member



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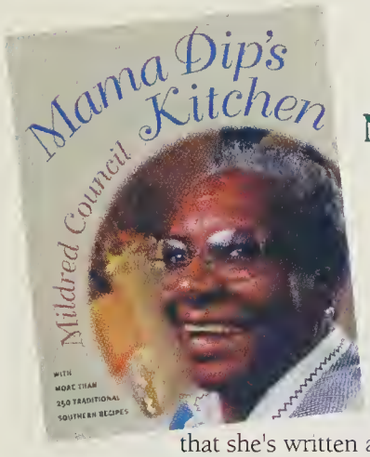

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Candy Cane Coffee Cakes

1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
3/4 cup warm water (110° to 115°)
1/2 cup warm milk (110° to 115°)
4 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter, melted
2 teaspoons salt
7 to 7-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Filling:
1 cup chopped hazelnuts
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup raisins
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3 tablespoons butter, melted

Glaze:
2 cups confectioners' sugar
3 to 4 tablespoons warm milk
1 tablespoon butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
1/4 cup chopped hazelnuts

In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in water and milk. Add eggs, sugar, butter, salt and 3 cups flour; beat until smooth. Add enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl; turn once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-1/2 hours. For filling, combine nuts, brown sugar, raisins and cinnamon; set aside. Punch dough down and divide into fourths. Roll one portion into a 12-inch x 7-inch rectangle. Brush with some butter; sprinkle with 2/3 cup filling. Roll up, jelly roll-style, starting with a long side; pinch to seal. Place on a greased baking sheet; shape top to form a cane. Repeat with remaining dough, filling and butter. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 35 minutes. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire racks. Combine the first five glaze ingredients; drizzle stripes over loaves. Sprinkle with nuts. Yield: 4 loaves.

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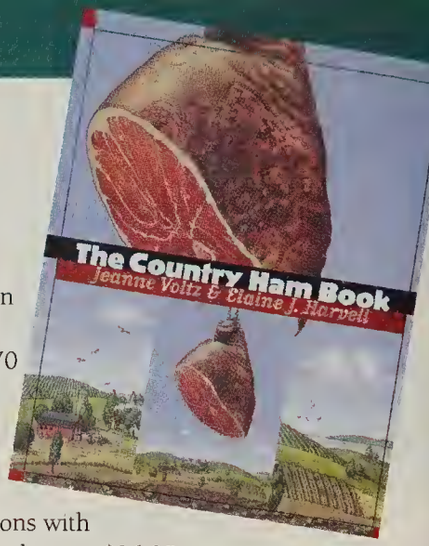

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Stuffed Butternut Squash

3 small butternut squash
(about 1-1/2 pounds each)
2 cups cubed fully cooked ham
1 cup soft bread crumbs
1/2 cup shredded tart apple
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons prepared mustard

Cut squash in half lengthwise; discard seeds. Place squash, cut side down, in a 15-inch x 10-inch x 1-inch baking pan. Fill pan with hot water to a depth of 1/2 inch. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 30 minutes. Combines remaining ingredients. Turn squash cut side up; stuff with ham mixture. Cover unstuffed end of squash with foil to prevent drying. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until squash is tender. Yield: 6 servings.

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Your favorite holiday memories

The memory toy

Anyone who has ever been in the armed services can tell you that one of the saddest times in your military career is being away from your family. In 1967 I was stationed at Long Bein Post in South Vietnam. As Christmas drew near, each soldier in my group would get his homemade cakes, cookies and whatever there was to share among us because we were all like one big family.

About three days before Christmas, my package arrived. All my buddies gathered around as I opened the package that my mother had sent: a box of Lance Nabs, a jar of peanut butter and a pound of chocolate peanuts.

I read the letter out loud to everyone, and as we sat around feeling very sad listening to Christmas music, I looked into the bottom of the box and there sat a Santa Claus on a tricycle raising a balloon that said "Merry Christmas."

I wound up the tricycle and sat it on a table in front of me. I talked of some of my past Christmas times and how much I missed being with my family. When I looked up, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I looked over at my buddy and handed him the Santa, and as he took his turn winding up the toy, he started to tell his story. We kept winding him up until all the stories were told.

From that Christmas up to this one coming, I still have Santa with me. He doesn't work as good as he did then. But he still brings a tear to my eyes when I remember those lonely days. I can't help but wonder if all those guys tell their grandchildren about our Christmas together.

I have added a new Santa to my collection, and I let my grandchildren wind it up while we talk about the good old days of Christmas.

Allen Lane Alligood
Washington
Tideland EMC

The Three Wise Men

My Dad, Mom, brother and sister and I were living in Brooklyn, N.Y., at the time. It was the day before Christmas. Things were bad all over. Dad was selling brooms and brushes on the street corner to earn money and had said he would bring us home a tree for Christmas.

We didn't have anything to put on the tree, so Mom said she would take us for a walk to see if we could find anything.

My hands were cold as we looked into trashcans for anything we could use. I found some old rags, a couple of pieces of blue and silver tinsel paper. What we found we put into a paper sack. When we got home, we sat on the floor and made chains, stars and anything we could to go on the tree.

I fell asleep on the floor but woke up when I heard the door. Dad came walking in with the tip of a tree someone had cut off and threw out. It had five or six branches. My older brother found a can to put it in and filled it with cat litter.

We had fun putting all our goodies we had made on the tree. Dad let me put my silver star on the top.

We hung up our stockings and went to sleep. When morning came, there were only a couple of gifts under the tree. We each got a coloring book, crayons, pencils and an orange.

At 10 o'clock Christmas morning, a knock came on the door. When my Mom opened it, there stood The Three Wise Men. At least they looked like that to me, their arms full with gifts. Fruit, nuts, canned goods for Mom and Dad. My brother got an airplane that you pushed, my sister a Snoopy Dog whose tail wagged. My gift was a rag doll, the best of all.

Every Christmas as I put up my 6-foot tree, a tear fills my eye as I remember The Three Wise Men: the firemen who lived across the street.

Louise Sweet
Mt. Gilead
Pee Dee EMC member

In his eyes and his smile

It was 1988, the year my father was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. My sisters and I needed to mend our broken hearts by reaching out to others. That summer we bought toys to donate to needy children at Christmas back home in Virginia.

As always, Christmas arrived suddenly and we packed our cars for the trip. Our hometown is nestled in the rolling hills of southwest Virginia. It is rich in beauty, but poor in other ways. My mother called the local gospel radio station. They announced throughout the morning of our toy donations.

The response was incredible! Mothers with hungry eyes arrived and fathers with callused hands came. Within one hour the toys were gone.

My father sat in his chair. His eyes twinkled, and his smile exploded on his face. His disease was far away from us that day. Soon, time erased his ability to smile and he lost his battle with ALS.

Every Christmas I return to that old, front porch remembering the day that my dad played Santa. I sit in his chair and remember his smile. I can still hear him softly whisper "Merry Christmas" from that porch.

Janie Rickman
Hudson
Blue Ridge Electric member

Chilled Mocha Eggnog

1-1/2 teaspoons instant coffee granules
1 tablespoon hot water
4 cups eggnog*
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a bowl, dissolve coffee in water. Add eggnog, brown sugar and cinnamon; whisk until sugar is dissolved. Chill. In a mixing bowl, beat cream, confectioners' sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Pour eggnog mixture into glasses; top with whipped cream. Yield: 4 cups.
*Editor's Note: This recipe was tested with commercially prepared eggnog.

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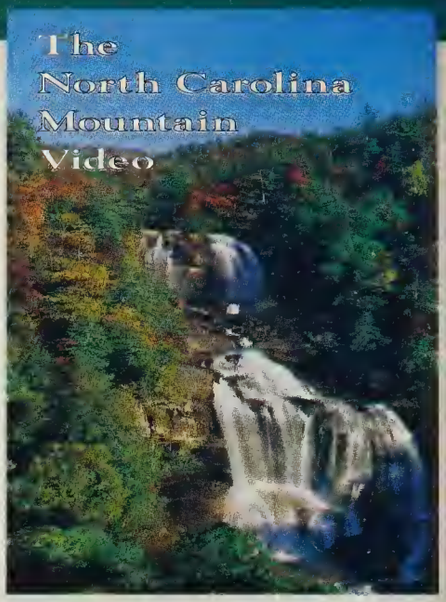

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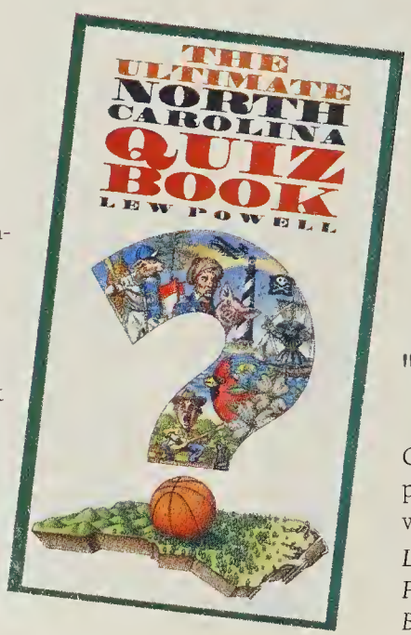

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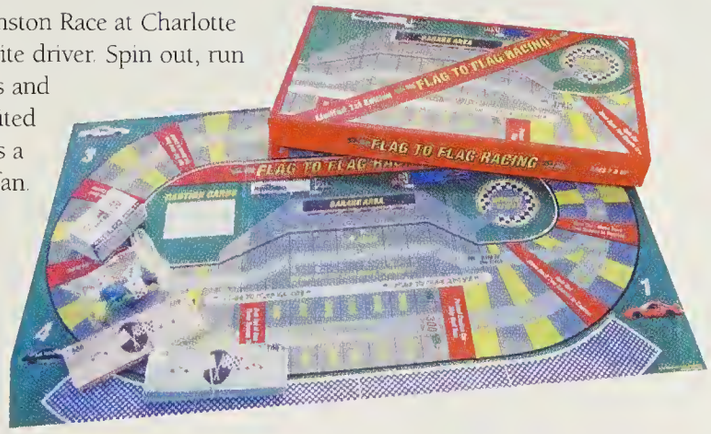

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Rosemary Pork Roast

1 boneless pork loin roast (3 to 3-1/2 pounds)
1/2 cup chopped green onions
2-1/4 cups chicken broth, divided
1/4 cup cider or red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon salt, optional
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 cup cold water

Place roast in a large resealable plastic bag or glass container. Combine onions, 1/4 cup broth, vinegar, oil, garlic, rosemary and pepper; pour over roast. Cover and refrigerate for 4-8 hours, turning occasionally. Remove roast and place with fat side up in an ungreased shallow roasting pan. Combine marinade with remaining broth; pour over roast. Sprinkle with salt if desired. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 2 to 2-1/2 hours or until a meat thermometer reads 160°-170°. Remove roast to a warm serving platter; let stand for 10 minutes before slicing. Meanwhile, skim fat from pan juices. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into juices. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Serve with the roast. Yield: 8 servings. *Nutritional Analysis: One serving (prepared with low-sodium broth and without salt) equals 305 calories, 117 mg sodium, 102 mg cholesterol, 4 gm carbohydrate, 36 protein, 15 gm fat. Diabetic Exchanges: 5 lean meat, 1 vegetable.*

Your favorite holiday memories

A light in the window

It was Christmas Eve. Our four small children were excited about going to their grandparents' home in South Carolina. Outside Fayetteville, our car broke down, and hours later we were back home in Angier. We had not decorated; there were no holiday goodies, no turkey for Christmas dinner.

Disappointed, my husband sat down to see if there might be some special program on TV. I went into the kitchen to find what I could do to change the atmosphere of the home. I prayed, asking the Lord to make Christmas special for the kids.

Before long we were feasting on a candlelight dinner, complete with tablecloth and china, laughing and enjoying each other.

Suddenly, a light shone through the front window. The children went out to see their uncle, who had driven four hours to say, "Santa and his reindeer have come to take you to PaPa and Granny's!"

While the men loaded the car, I cleaned the kitchen and thanked the Lord for demonstrating again that He cares about every detail of our lives and that He delights in doing special things for His children.

Gunda Z. Taylor
Youngsville
Wake EMC member

No turkey this year

Growing up in the Blue Ridge Mountains, winters were colder than here in the Sandhills. Thanksgiving Day was hog-killing time at my grandparent's farm. All my mother's family would gather at Grandpa's for a full day of getting the meat ready for winter.

One Thanksgiving, Grandpa came to our house a few weeks before and brought Mama this very thin turkey for her to fatten up for the big day. Since this was the only day of the year we had turkey, my brother and I were eagerly waiting for a turkey drumstick.

Well, on Thanksgiving Day we all sat down to a table laden with lots of good food, but not turkey. It seems Mama had let the turkey get loose, and it ran away. After a day with lots of fun and laughter over the lost turkey, we all went home.

A few days later, Mama called us out to the barn, and there stood Tom Turkey.

To this day Mama doesn't know I discovered her secret the day before Thanksgiving. She had hid Tom Turkey out back in a storage shed.

Myrtle Hall
Sanford
Central EMC member

Christmas in Miami Beach

I was a country girl, born and raised in North Carolina. I decided I needed to see something different. So in the fall of 1977, I moved to Miami Beach, a very exotic-sounding place to a 19-year-old.

I found an apartment and set about meeting my neighbors. I discovered that in my 10-unit apartment building, all the other tenants were in their 70s and 80s. Soon I had 10 sets of new "grandparents" looking out for me.

I found a job and settled into my new routine. About two weeks before Christmas, even though it didn't feel like Christmas, the stores were all decked out in their Christmas finery. The lights were up, the streets were decorated. I even had a tree with presents under it. But there was a big problem. I was homesick for being with my very large extended family.

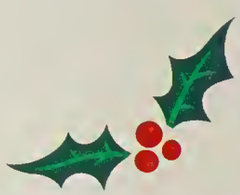
Every Christmas so far I had spent at my grandparents' house surrounded by dozens of aunts, uncles, cousins, my brothers and parents. We would always have a huge turkey dinner with all the trimmings, lots of laughter and stories and then the opening of a mountain of presents.

I decided to at least cook a turkey dinner of my own. As I talked to my new neighbors about there own plans for Christmas, surprise! They were all Jewish and hardly any had holiday plans. One by one I invited them to my apartment for a turkey dinner on Christmas day.

Then came another surprise. Several days before Christmas, my mother and two of my brothers showed up to be with me on Christmas. My brothers, ages 8 and 10, soon met all the neighbors and decided we should get them all a little gift since they would be with us on Christmas day. It really felt like Christmas now, with lots of gifts to buy and wrap and a big meal to prepare for.

Christmas Day arrived, hot and sunny. The smells of turkey and dressing and all the trimmings filled the air in my very small apartment. Soon the doorbell started ringing. In came neighbor after neighbor all bringing food and gifts. We ate, we sang, we talked, we laughed, we played games. Finaliy we all opened our presents and my new Jewish friends gave and received their first ever Christmas presents. And one Southern Baptist country girl, no longer homesick, had an unforgettable Christmas.

Rita Freeman
Hillsborough
Piedmont EMC member



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21	----	----	13.30	12.07	22.75	19.68	38.50	32.37
22	----	----	13.30	12.07	22.75	19.68	38.50	32.37
23	----	----	13.30	12.07	22.75	19.68	38.50	32.37
24	----	----	13.30	12.07	22.75	19.68	38.50	32.37
25	----	----	13.30	12.07	22.75	19.68	38.50	32.37
26	----	----	13.38	12.16	22.96	19.90	38.93	32.81
27	----	----	13.47	12.16	23.18	19.90	39.37	32.81
28	----	----	13.56	12.25	23.40	20.12	39.81	33.25
29	----	----	13.65	12.25	23.62	20.12	40.25	33.25
30	----	----	13.65	12.33	23.62	20.34	40.25	33.68
31	----	----	13.73	12.33	23.84	20.34	40.68	33.68
32	----	----	13.82	12.42	24.06	20.56	41.12	34.12
33	----	----	13.91	12.42	24.28	20.56	41.56	34.12
34	----	----	14.00	12.51	24.50	20.78	42.00	34.56
35	----	----	14.26	12.68	25.15	21.21	43.31	35.43
36	----	----	14.70	12.95	26.25	21.87	45.50	36.75
37	----	----	15.22	13.30	27.56	22.75	48.12	38.50
38	----	----	15.75	13.65	28.87	23.62	50.75	40.25
39	----	----	16.45	14.08	30.62	24.71	54.25	42.43
40	----	----	17.06	14.61	32.15	26.03	57.31	45.06
41	----	----	17.93	15.13	34.34	27.34	61.68	47.68
42	----	----	18.90	15.75	36.75	28.87	66.50	50.75
43	----	----	20.03	16.62	39.59	31.06	72.18	55.12
44	----	----	21.43	17.41	43.09	33.03	79.18	59.06
45	----	----	22.92	18.37	46.81	35.43	86.62	63.67

Call for more information on amounts and products

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
46	----	----	24.58	19.33	50.96	37.84	94.93	68.68
47	----	----	26.16	20.38	54.90	40.46	102.81	73.93
48	----	----	27.82	21.35	59.06	42.87	111.12	78.75
49	----	----	29.57	22.40	63.43	45.50	119.87	84.00
50	----	----	31.50	23.62	68.25	48.56	129.50	90.12
51	----	----	33.86	25.02	74.15	52.06	141.31	97.12
52	----	----	36.48	26.60	80.71	56.00	154.43	105.00
53	----	----	39.63	28.43	88.59	60.59	170.18	114.18
54	----	----	43.48	30.62	98.21	66.06	189.43	125.12
55	27.43	20.08	47.86	33.16	109.15	72.40	211.31	137.81
56	29.92	21.56	52.85	36.13	121.62	79.84	236.25	152.68
57	32.68	23.10	58.36	39.20	135.40	87.50	263.81	168.00
58	35.65	24.76	64.31	42.52	150.28	95.81	293.56	184.62
59	38.89	26.60	70.78	46.20	166.46	105.00	325.93	203.00
60	42.30	28.52	77.61	50.05	183.53	114.62	360.06	222.25
61	45.98	30.58	84.96	54.16	201.90	124.90	396.81	242.81
62	49.87	32.76	92.75	58.53	221.37	135.84	435.75	264.68
63	53.98	35.08	100.97	63.17	241.93	147.43	476.87	287.87
64	58.36	37.53	109.72	68.07	263.81	159.68	520.62	312.37
65	62.95	40.11	118.91	73.23	286.78	172.59	566.56	338.18

Additional ages and amounts with guaranteed rates *(of course)* available upon request.

Other amounts available upon request. Premiums are based on applicant's age at nearest birthday. Policies are non-cancellable as long as premiums are paid. Premiums may be paid annually, semi-annually or by monthly bank draft. (A no-cost medical exam may be required depending on age, health or amount of coverage desired). Premiums above are 15 year term. Policy Form No. PGRAT97NW1. Level death benefit to age 95 with premiums guaranteed level for the first 15 years. Guaranteed renewability to age 95. All policies are issued and underwritten by Great American® Life Insurance Company, P.O. Box 5416, Cincinnati, OH 45201-5416. Nearly $6 billion in assets as of 12/31/97.
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River Forest, IL 60305

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Application Request Form

The information you provide will be kept in strict confidence.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

HOME PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

BENEFICIARY _____ AGE _____

The best time to call me is:

❑ Morning ❑ Afternoon ❑ Evening (❑ Home ❑ Work)

I wish to pay my premiums: ❑ Annually ❑ Semi-Annually ❑ Monthly Bank Draft

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUESTED FOR:

NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

Comments: _____

I am also interested in: ❑ 10 year term ❑ 20 year term ❑ 30 year term

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you reliable electric power and services.

Just as we have for many decades.

Touchstone Energy®

a commitment to integrity, innovation and community awareness

A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

Lighten up!

The changing of the seasons brings shorter days, and that means there's less sunlight to enjoy. For many, autumn is a time for pre-winter blues. Cheer up! Doctors say injecting a shot of artificial sunlight into your day can make it much brighter.

1. Wake-up call

This clever alarm clock helps you feel better before you even wake up! The Soleil Sun Alarm gradually illuminates during the 30 minutes before your alarm rings, simulating a natural dawn--no matter how dark it is when your day starts. The light triggers your brain's production of serotonin, a hormone linked with good moods. The Sun Alarm costs around $119; a similar clock, The Sun Up, sells for $179, and may be purchased by calling 800-486-6723 or on the Internet at www.LightTherapyProducts.com

2. Bright box

More than 20 million Americans suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and could benefit from light therapy. Apollo's Bright Lite IV provides that therapy in a nine-pound, high-intensity light box. To use it, simply sit, read or work near the box for about 15 to 30 minutes each morning. Within a week, the manufacturer says, most people begin to feel better. To order the box, which costs around $299, call 800-545-9667 or visit the company's Web site at www.apollolight.com

3. Happy hat

Could there be a more convenient way to "sit" under therapeutic lights than by wearing them under a visor? The lightweight Bio-Brite Light Visor is powered by a small, rechargeable battery pack, so the wearer can move about freely. It delivers glare-free light, so you can enjoy reading, eating, watching TV or exercising while getting your daily dose of mood-elevating "sunlight." The visor costs $199 to $299, depending on features, and is available by calling 800-621-LITE.

4. Gentle mornings

Ease into each new day with soothing sounds and gentle light. Nature's Relaxor sound and Light Therapy alarm clock offers six environment sounds, including song birds and heartbeats, and soft, illuminating light to wake you naturally. The light may be used independently to preserve a tranquil mood in the room all day long. Buy the clock for about $59.99 from Sears or mail-order catalogs. Call 800-RELAXOR if you need help finding one.

5. Two birds

A classic symptom of seasonal affective disorder is a lack of energy, which can be exacerbated when a sufferer doesn't feel well enough to exercise. Bio-Light offers a solution: a therapy light on a stand that can be rigged to an exercise bike or treadmill. The user can reap the benefits of light therapy and exercise at the same time. The Deluxe Bio-Light Package, including the floor stand, costs $475 by calling 800-222-DAWN.

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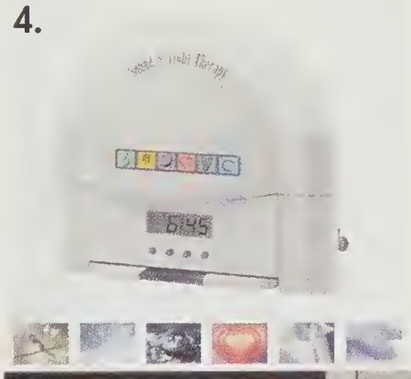
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This guide is for informational purposes only and not intended as an endorsement by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

State sets up disaster fund especially for farmers

Farmers and farm communities in eastern North Carolina have been devastated by Hurricane Floyd and will continue to face extreme difficulties for months. In response the crisis and in consultation with the state's major commodities groups and Norris Tolson, chairman of the Governor's Floyd Disaster Relief Fund, the N.C. Department of Agriculture (NCDA) has established the NCDA Farmer Disaster Fund.

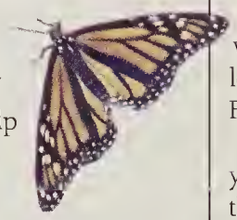
Contributions to the fund will be held by the N.C. Agricultural Foundation, Inc. (IRS Tax Exempt #56-6049304) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University. The full amount of all contributions will benefit distressed farm families.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund, make a check payable to NCDA Farmer Disaster Fund and send to: NCDA Farmer Disaster Fund, c/o Commissioner James A. Graham, PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611.

For more information about the fund, contact Weldon Denny at (919) 733-7125.

Michael Gery

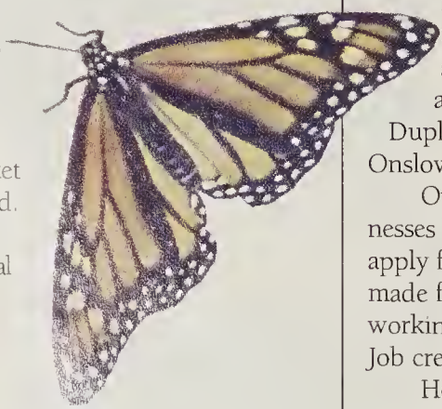
Create a flower garden for butterflies



The Butterfly Garden Club of Kentucky is offering a free packet of annual flower seeds to help turn your backyard into paradise for the "flying flower" – the butterfly.

The seed mix packet includes flowers such as sunflowers, pincushion flower, calendula, wild cosmos, sweet alyssum, Blackeyed Susan, catchfly, rose mallow, scarlet flax, Sweet William, Bachelor's Buttons and toad flax.

The packet contains growing instructions and tips on other landscaping projects to attract butterflies. To receive the packet, send a long self-addressed stamped envelope (with 2 stamps) to The Butterfly Garden Club, PO Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household.



Additional packets are available for $1 each.

Charlotte hosts the State's 1999 Fall Special Olympics

Charlotte will host the 1999 Special Olympics North Carolina Fall Games November 5-7. More than 2,000 athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters are expected. Athletes will compete in bocce, bowling, cycling, golf, roller-skating, soccer and tennis at various locations, including Charlotte Country Day School, Tradewinds at Central Avenue and the Fire Department training facility.

Although Special Olympics holds local and state-level competition throughout the year, the Fall Games will be the first major state-level competition in the state following the this year's Special Olympics World Summer Games, in which 7,000 athletes from 150 countries participated.

For more information, call (800) 843-6276, or visit the Web site www.sonc.net.

Help for small businesses in Neuse River area

The Neuse River Development Authority (NRDA) is the oldest multi-county certified development company in the state. Since 1979, NRDA has made more than 175 loans for a total of $27 million to small and medium-sized businesses in the 10-county area comprising Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne counties.

Owners of new or expanding businesses located in this region are eligible to apply for a loan with the NRDA. Loans are made for land and/or building purchases, working capital, inventory and equipment. Job creation is required a NRDA loan.

Headquartered in New Bern, NRDA's goal is to assist those businesses that might not be qualified for the more traditional bank financing, but still represent lendable projects. Call (252) 638-6724.

"Cash for College"

Agriculture essays needed from seniors

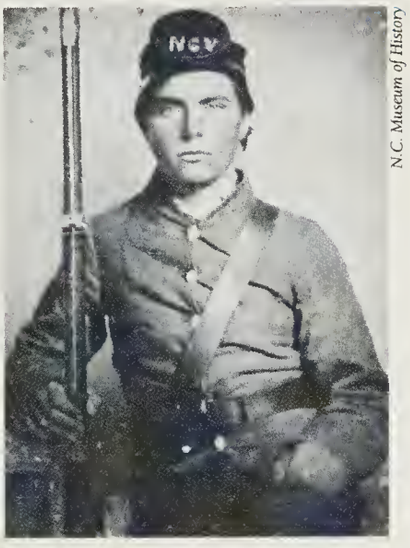
"Cash for College," an essay contest co-sponsored by Walls® Industries and AgDay TV, will award two $5,000 college scholarships (one to a male student and one to a female student). Fifty contest finalists will receive Walls jackets. This year, the contest is open to all high school seniors.

To enter, students must call 1-800-447-WEAR for an official entry form, write a 2500-word essay on "Agriculture in the 21st Century," and submit the form and essay by Dec. 31. Last year's contest generated entries from students in 40 states.

Museum Exhibits

Museum of History special exhibit on "North Carolina and the Civil War"

When North Carolina seceded from the Union to join the Confederate States of America on May 20, 1861, hundreds of the state's men across the state left their homes, farms and businesses to enlist in the Confed-erate army. The war would eventually claim more than 40,000 North Carolinians, the most from any Southern state.



N.C. Museum of History

Archer W. Watkins, a 17-year-old Rockingham County farmer, joined Company H (Rockingham Guards), 45th Regiment N.C. Troops in 1862. Watkins survived the war and was paroled on May 8, 1865.

This fall, the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh opened an exhibit detailing the stories of North Carolinians who lived, served and sacrificed during the war. "North Carolina and the Civil War" showcases these stories through belongings, photographs, military items and close-up accounts of 15 individuals, including a sergeant from Pitt County, a slave from Brunswick County and a staunch female secessionist who lived on a plantation in Halifax County.

The 3,500-square-foot exhibit guides visitors from prewar North Carolina to the return of peace in 1865, highlighting the diverse roles citizens played both in battle and on the home front. It also includes soldiers' life in camp and battle, wartime industries, struggles at home and uncertainties of postwar life. The exhibit also examines the experiences of some 15,000 white and black North Carolinians who served in Federal regiments.

N.C. Museum of History

Left to right: U.S. M1858 canteen belonged to Orderly Sergeant Alfred May from Pitt County. Pincushion, ca. 1862-1865, was used by Fanny Waddell of Nash County. Brigadier General Junius Daniel carried this pocket watch into battle. Kepi (cap) worn by Sergeant E.C.N. Green of Wake County.

Artifacts in the exhibit range from a split-oak cotton basket used by slaves in Rowan County to Confederate soldiers' weapons to a captured Union flag. Three settings show visitors the diverse wartime experiences of the state's citizens. For example, one setting illustrates the obstacles women and children faced with husbands and fathers away in the army. Black and white photographs show the faces of young and old soldiers, freed slaves, and husbands and wives.

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh. Admission is free. The exhibit will be on-going. For more information, call (919) 715-0200, or visit the Web site http://nchistory.dcr.state.nc.us/museums.

Umbrella art by Chapel Hill High School students featured in "Passport to Africa" exhibit.

"Passport to Africa" exhibit has a made-in-North-Carolina label

South African beadwork, Ghanian textiles, a Yoruba Egungun costume and other African-inspired works created by students from 11 North Carolina schools are part of the exhibition "Passport to Africa," on display at the N.C. Museum of Art's Outreach Gallery and Education lobby through Dec. 12.

Teachers taking part in the outreach project incorporated African cultures as part of their curriculum. Students learned about Africa by hosting various performances by African artists. Museum staff and local artists trained the teachers on how to create African projects. The teachers submitted proposals for the artwork that their classes would create. The museum provided all the materials.

The schools participating are Broughton High, Raleigh; Chantilly Elementary, Charlotte; Chapel Hill High, Chapel Hill; Currituck County Middle, Barco; Eastern Guilford Middle, Gibsonville; Eastway Elementary, Durham; Midwood High, Charlotte; Pleasant Union Elementary, Raleigh; Stokesdale Elementary, Stokesdale; Swansboro Middle, Swansboro; and Westerly Hills Elementary, Charlotte.

The N.C. Museum of Art is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh. For more information, call (919) 839-6262.

Geography fun at Discovery Place

An activity-filled exhibit, "Earth 2U, Exploring Geography," at Discovery Place in Charlotte, gives visitors a chance to see there is a lot more to geography than naming major capitals and landforms. The exhibit, organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the National Geographic Society, runs through Jan. 16.

"Earth 2U, Exploring Geography" blends education and entertainment, using computer displays and hands-on activities. Seymour D. Earth, a cartoon-style, spindly-legged bird, plays host, leading visitors through the exhibition areas, including adventure of exploration, geographers' tools and techniques, the global origins of everyday things, mysteries behind landscapes and land forms, the impact of natural forces and the study of the earth's burgeoning population.

Touchable objects, games, stories, videos and environmental reconstructions show that learning geography can be fun. For example, a video-equipped kitchen sink shows where water comes from, where it goes after it washes down the drain and why our water supply is not endless.

Discovery Place is located at 301 North Tryon Street, Charlotte. Admission is $6.50 for ages 13-59, $4 for ages 6-12 and 59+, $2.75 for ages 3-5, and free for under age 3. For more information, call (704) 372-6261, or visit the Web site www.discoveryplace.org.

Personal Computing Advice
by Reid Goldsborough

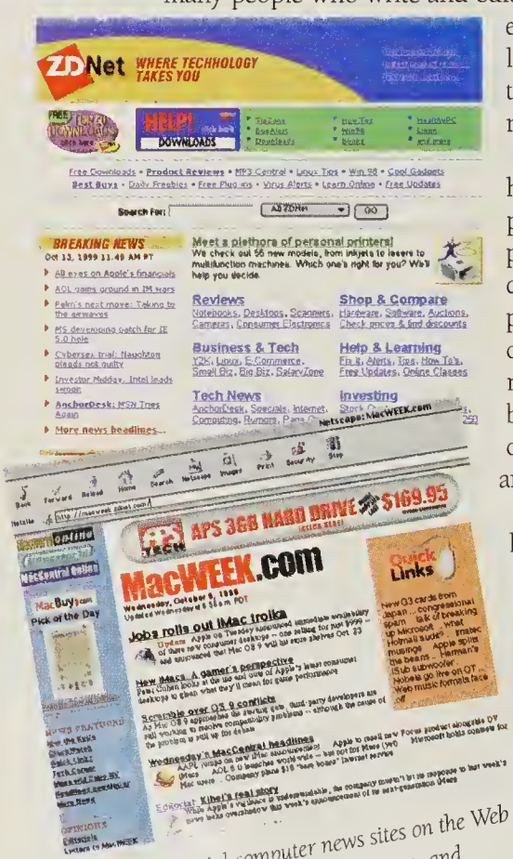
Other sources of computer news and information

What you're reading right now is an attempt at helpful information and advice about personal computers and the Internet. But the world of information technology is as varied as it is complex, and there are plenty of other places to seek out news and tips as well.

Computer magazines and their online kin are one such place. Hundreds of different computer publications, national and local, general-interest and specialized, crave your attention. Some are newsstand magazines, available at your local bookstore and by subscription; others are "controlled circulation" publications, available by subscription for free to industry professi

This is not to say that bias doesn't exist. Most computer publications, subtly or blatantly, encourage readers to buy the latest and greatest in general. This "Buy, buy, buy!" pro-industry boosterism is part of an effort to create an overall climate attractive to advertisers. With some computer magazines, you have to infer negatives about products by the paucity of glowing positives.

But part of this bias innocently results from the reality that many people who write and edit computer magazines are gadget geeks, and their zeal for the latest tools and toys shines through in their buying recommendations.



Highly influential computer news sites on the Web include ZDNet, at http://www.zdnet.com, and MacWEEK.com, at http://www.macweek.com.

Even the top magazines, however, sometimes succumb to pressure from individual companies. PC Magazine, which does the most thorough comparison testing of any popular computer publication, recently raised more than one pair of eyebrows when onals who buy computer products in quantity and meet other criteria.

Computer magazines, like many institutions, are useful but imperfect. Readers sometimes express concern that companies who advertise receive favorable mention in reviews and other articles.

The best computer publications take pains to prevent advertising from influencing editorial, referring to this in terms such as the separation of church and state. it acquiesced to Oracle's demands that it refrain from publishing the results of tests comparing the performance of its SQL database software Oracle8i with Microsoft SQL Server 7.0, as PC Magazine itself revealed in its August issue.

Oracle isn't the only computer company that has tried to control what computer publications write about it. Publications usually ignore these kinds of stiff-armed tactics.

There's no denying the popularity of computer magazines, despite the ongoing shake-up in the computer publishing industry, with some high-visibility publications folding and others converting to online-only versions.

The latest survey by Mediamark Research, at http://www.mediamark.com, shows that the three most popular newsstand computer magazines -- PC World, PC Magazine, and PC Computing -- each have circulations of more than one million. As a point of reference, Business Week's circulation is slightly more than 950,000.

Other popular newsstand computer magazines, in order of circulation, are Macworld, Computer Shopper, Yahoo! Internet Life, and FamilyPC.

Popularity and quality often though not always go hand in hand. PC World, one of the least boosterish computer magazines, received the latest "Best Overall Computer Magazine" award from the Computer Press Association, at http://www.computerpress.org.

Controlled-circulation publications are more business-oriented than newsstand magazines and can be an efficient way for information-technology professionals to keep current. The five most popular, according to BPA International, at http://www.bpai.com, are InformationWeek, InfoWorld, PC Week, Network Computing, and NewMedia. PC Week received the most recent "Best Overall Trade Weekly or Tabloid" award from the Computer Press Association.

It only follows that more and more people are using information technology to obtain news about information technology. Getting your computer and Internet news over the Web makes it easier to archive material for later retrieval, and it can't be beat for breaking news.

Most top computer news sites are free online versions of affiliated print publications. CNET, a free publication at http://www.cnet.com, is an exception, available only online. CNET has been rated as the most influential computer publication on the Web in a survey by Internet Valley, at http://www.internetvalley.com.

Following CNET, other highly influential computer news sites on the Web include ZDNet, at http://www.zdnet.com, TechWeb, at http://www.techweb.com, Wired News, at http://www.wired.com, and MacWEEK.com, at http://www.macweek.com. ZDNet received the most recent "Best Overall Online Site" award from the Computer Press Association.

Despite the flashiness of the Web, the fastest and most convenient way to receive computer news is through e-mail. Most computer news sites offer free e-mail based news alerts, which you can sign up for by filling out a form at the respective site.

Finally, here are two computer news sites you may not have heard of. Tasty Bits from the Technology Front, at http://tbtf.com, is targeted toward technology newshounds. Slashdot, at http://www.slashdot.org, describes itself as "News for Nerds" and includes insightful opinions and inside information.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway. He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or http://members.home.net/reidgold.

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$90,000	$532.39/mo.	$644.77/mo.
$120,000	$709.85/mo.	$859.69/mo.
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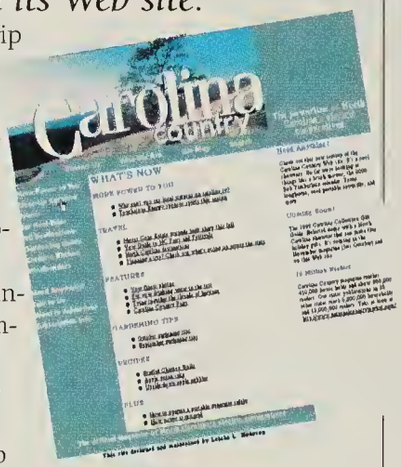

Now you can search for recipes, plan a trip anywhere in the Carolina countryside, learn about portable generators, research gardening advice for all seasons of the year and even test your skills at word and math puzzles.

Carolina Country online also links to all the Web sites of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and our statewide office, as well as to Web sites containing North Carolina cultural information, such as history, art, recreation, farmers markets, you name it. Beyond North Carolina, we link to magazines like ours in 25 other states.

This site will show changes continually to keep it lively.

Click on us at www.carolinacountry.com and mark it as a favorite. The site is designed by the magazine's art director Leisha Hodgson, with assistance from the technical wizards at North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation: Steve Ballard and Ajaz Sadiq.

These are some of the more popular features.

Close-up Carolina

Things we all care about: homegrown music, books, art, exhibits, performances, places, videos, ideas and oddities.

Events

A searchable guide to coming events in North Carolina, from the mountains to the coast. With phone numbers and Web site links.

Tar Heel Tales

Your favorite stories - long, tall, short and snappy – about the place we love. Plus some of our stories, too.

NC Destinations

A comprehensive traveler's guide to North Carolina's attractions - the well-known and the little-known, with phone numbers and links. Also: detailed guides to furniture, festivals, farmers markets and more.

Gardening Guide

A month-by-month guide to gardening in the Tar Heel State, by expert gardener and retired Extension specialist Hank Smith.

Carolina Kitchen

A storehouse of Carolina recipes - plain, fancy and everything in between for every course of any meal. You can search by ingredient.

More Power to You

You have the power if you are a member of a cooperative. This is timely information, consumer tips and links on issues ranging from energy efficiency, new appliances and electronics, computers, politics and who's in charge.

Mindbenders

Math puzzles, word puzzles and wit from Charles Joyner.

Need Anything?

Bob Timberlake calendar? Weed and brush mower? Steel building? Registered Texas longhorns? Used portable sawmill? They advertise it here. So can you.

Talk to Us

Who we are and how to reach us.

Thank you notes

Thanks to Tideland's "heroes"

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Coming out under adverse conditions, when we can stay inside, and dealing with downed trees, wind, rain, snow, downed lines, etc. makes all these wonderful people heroes in our eyes.

We just had to let everyone at Tideland EMC know how much we appreciate everything you do for us.

June and Stanley Jelinski
New Bern

Thanks for the song

I wrote to Carolina Country recently requesting a song and have received over 100 letters from people across North Carolina. I cannot express my feelings of what this has done for me.

I just wanted to thank you all for doing this. I really enjoyed reading all the letters and listening to the tapes you all sent me.

May God bless each and every one. That is my prayer.

Lucy Epley
Hickory

Editor's Note: The song was "The Wayfaring Stranger," as we reported in the Commentary section in October.

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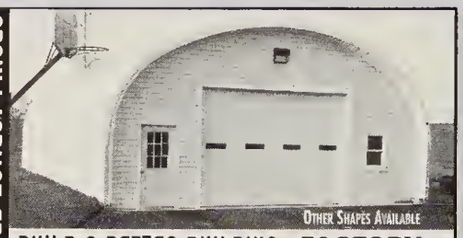

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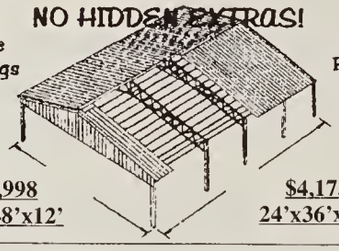

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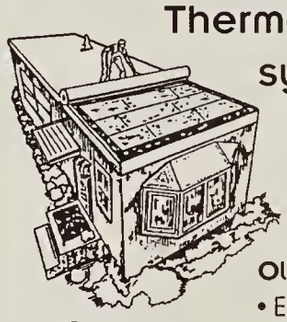

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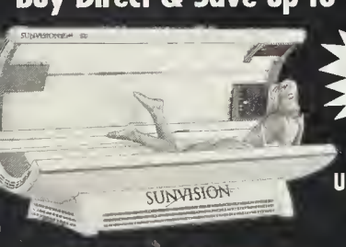

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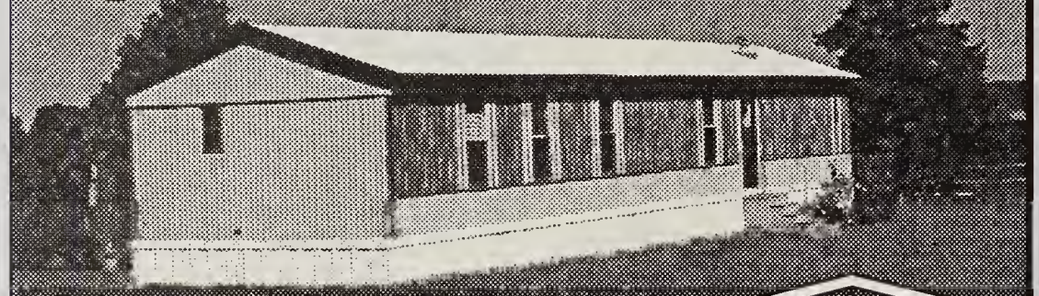

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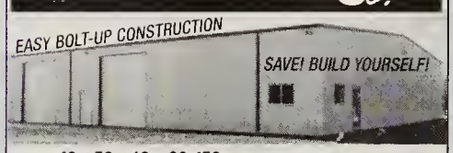

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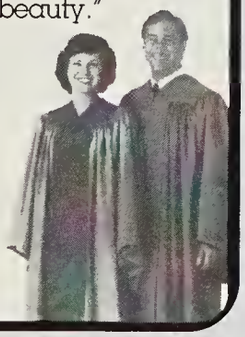

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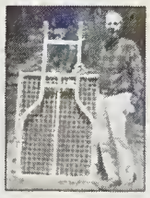

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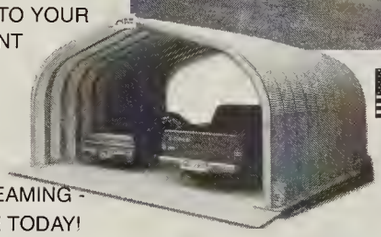

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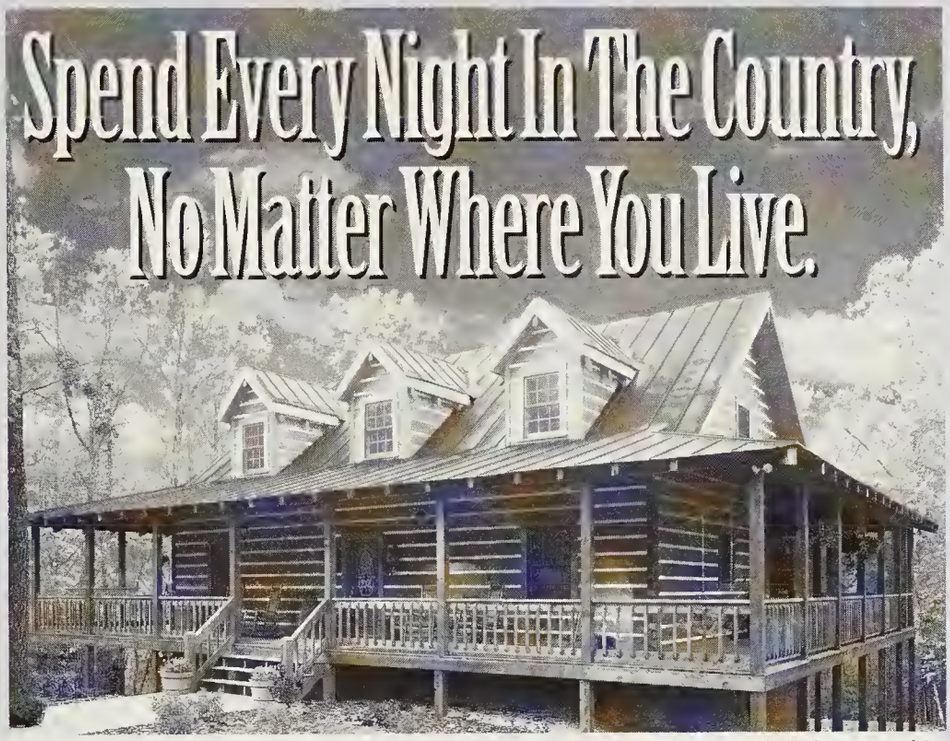

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Mountains (West of I-77)

The Chair Show 3
Through Nov. 14, Asheville
Folk Art Center
The art of making chairs
(828) 298-7928

Solo Art Exhibit
Through Nov. 19, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center
Martha Gimlin
(336) 246-ARTS

Gallery Art
Nov. 1-30, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Homage to things ordinary
(704) 825-4490

N.C. Symphony
Nov. 4, West Jefferson
Ashe County High School
7:30 p.m., $8, (336) 246-ARTS

Art Exhibit
Nov. 4-30, Gastonia
Art 1, Cotton Ketchie exhibit
(704) 854-8800

Bonsai Show
Nov. 4-7, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Miniature trees on display
(704) 825-4490

Bonsai Basics
Nov. 6, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Bonsai workshop, fee
(704) 825-4490

Intro. to Fly Tying
Nov. 6, Pisgah Forest
Center for Wildlife Education
(828) 877-4423

ID's for Carolina Trees
Nov. 7, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Tree workshop, fee
(704) 825-4490

Eco-Explorers
Nov. 11, Pisgah Forest Center for
Wildlife Education
(828) 877-4423

Opal is a Diamond
Nov. 12-14, 19-21, Hayesville
Peacock Playhouse
Play, (828) 389-8632

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Nov. 12-21, Waynesville
Shelton House
Tennessee Williams play
(828) 456-6322

Missions Craft Fair
Nov. 13, Canton
Bethel Baptist Church Crafts, food,
7 a.m.-2 p.m., (828) 648-4106

Hug a Tree
Nov. 13, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Children's workshop, fee
(704) 825-4490

Planting Trees
Nov. 13, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Workshop, fee, registration
(704) 825-4490

Blue Ridge Theatre
Nov. 13, 27, Dec. 4, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center
Country, gospel, 7:30 p.m.
(336) 246-4483

Parade
Nov. 20, Spruce Pine
Downtown, Christmas Parade
(828) 765-4025

Prelude to Holidays
Nov. 20, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Garden
Decorating tips, fee
(704) 825-4490

Harvest Celebration
Nov. 21, Asheville
Folk Art Center
Music, stories, crafts
(828) 298-7928

Visions of Sugarplums
Nov. 27-Dec. 31, Smyrna, TN
Sam Davis Home, Holiday decorations
(888) 750-9524

Treefest
Nov. 29-Dec. 31, West Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center
(336) 246-ARTS

Appalachian Potters Market
Dec. 4, Marion
McDowell High School, claywork
craft fair, (828) 652-8610

Holiday Art and Craft Tour
Dec. 4-5, Spruce Pine
Toe River Arts, (Holiday)
Local artists, (828) 682-7215

Piedmont (Between I-77 & I-95)

Children's Fashions
Through Nov. 6, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
19th century kids' clothing
(704) 337-2000

Winslow Homer
Through Nov. 28, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, Art Exhibit
(336) 725-5325

From Ship to Shore
Through Dec. 5, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
Marine paintings exhibit
(704) 337-2000

China Connection
Through Dec. 18, Oxford
Granville County Museum
Photographs and artifacts
(919) 693-9706

Dale Chihuly
Through Jan. 9, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft + Design
Exhibit of glass art
(704) 337-2097

Art Show
Nov. 1-24, Rockingham
Leath Library, Richmond County
artists, (910) 997-6008

Rail Camp IV
Nov. 5-7, Spencer
NC Transportation Museum
Boy Scout camp, (704) 636-2889

Craft Fair
Nov. 5-7, Raleigh
State Farmers Market, (919) 733-7417

Cozy Cottage
Nov. 5-6, Kernersville
Kernersville Community House
craft sale, (336) 993-2260

Homecoming Celebration
Nov. 6, Ansonville
(704) 694-6516

Museum Memories
Nov. 7, Raleigh
Museum of Natural Sciences
Celebrate 120 years, 2-4 p.m.
(919) 733-7450

Veteran's Program
Nov. 9, Mocksville
First Baptist Church
Dinner and program, 5:30 p.m.
(336) 751-0611

Germany: Divided & United
Nov. 9, Winston-SalemReynolda
House, lecture, free,
(336) 725-5325

Turkey Regatta
Nov. 13, Gulf
Deep River Park, River fun,
10 a.m.-3 p.m., (919) 776-9652

Native American
Nov. 13, Spencer
NC Musuem of Transportation
Family Fun Saturday
(704) 636-2889

Landscape Planning
Nov. 13, Cary
Glenaire, (919) 460-8095

Old Salem Holiday
Nov. 13-Dec. 31, Winston-Salem
Old Salem, Old Moravian holiday
traditions, (336) 721-7300

Pottery Open House
Nov. 14, Bailey
Finch Pottery, More than 40 potters,
music, (252) 946-7480

Printmaking
Nov. 16, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, Lecture
tour, (336) 725-5325

Picasso's War
Nov. 17, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House
One-man play, (336) 725-5325

Piedmont Crafts Fair
Nov. 18-21 Winston-Salem
MC Benton Convention Ctr.
More than 100 craftsmen
(336) 725-1516

Pecan Day
Nov. 19, Raleigh
State Farmers Market, (919) 733-7417

American Country Houses
Nov. 19, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House
Lecture, (336) 725-5325

Festival of Trees & Lights
Nov. 19-21, Southern Pines
Pine Needles Lodge, Benefit
(910) 692-3323

Arsenic and Old Lace
Nov. 26-Dec. 12, Sanford
Temple Theatre
Comedy classic, (919) 774-4512

Christmas Open House
Nov. 26-Dec. 31, Greensboro
Blandwood Mansion
1860 Christmas, (336) 272-5003

Christmas Open House
Dec. 5, Durham
Bennett Place, 1-4 p.m.
(919) 383-4345

Christmas Celebration
Dec. 5, Stanfield
Reed Gold Mine, Victorian
Christmas, (704) 721-4653

Psychology
Through Jan. 2, Durham
Museum of Life Sciences
Exhibit, (919) 220-5429

Coast (East of I-95)

Trio of Talent
Nov. 1-15, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council
Free, (252) 338-6455

African-American Festival
Nov. 6, Murfreesboro
Hertford Co. Middle School
10 a.m.-6 p.m., (252) 398-8192

Arts & Crafts Show
Nov. 6, Edenton
National Guard Armory
10 a.m.-4 p.m., (252) 482-3400

Mattamuskeet Fun Ride
Nov. 6, Swan Quarter
Lake Mattamuskeet
Bike ride, (252) 925-5201

40th Celebration
Nov. 6, Fremont
Charles B. Aycock Birthplace
Historic site, (919) 242-5581

204th Birthday Celebration
Nov. 6, Pineville
James K. Polk Memorial
18th century crafts, (704) 889-7145

Edenton Sound Festival
Nov. 6-7, Edenton
Downtown, Music, arts, crafts
(252) 482-3400

Battle Reenactment
Nov. 6-7, Hamilton
Fort Branch Battlefield Civil
War battle, (800) 776-8566

Holly Days Craft Show
Nov. 6-8, Elizabeth City
Camden High School, (252) 771-2197

Dinner Theatre
Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, Rose Hill
Duplin Winery
Variety show, (800) 774-9634

Site Anniversary
Nov. 7, Sedalia
Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial
(336) 449-4846

Whales of North Carolina
Nov. 9, Beaufort
NC Maritime Museum, Photos
and display, (252) 728-7317

Why, Soldiers, Why?
Nov. 11, New Bern
Tryon Palace, Colonial music,
(800) 767-1560

Bladen Ag & Business Expo
Nov. 12-13, Clarkton
Bright Leaf Warehouse
Exhibits, contests, (910) 862-4591

Native American Festival
Nov. 12-14, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation
(910) 686-9518

Mistletoe Craft Show
Nov. 12-14, Elizabeth City
Knobbs Creek Rec Center
$2.50 per adult, (252) 330-2427

Holiday Craft Fair
Nov. 13, Havelock
Havelock Middle School
8 a.m.-3 p.m., (252) 447-1101

Lore of Yaupon: The Black Drink
Nov. 16, Beaufort
NC Maritime Museum
Lecture on shrub, tea sampling
(252) 728-7317

Symphony Concert
Nov. 20, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, Va. Beach
Symphony, (800) 335-9050

Farm-City Festival
Nov. 20, Plymouth
Downtown waterfront
Crafts, rides, music
(252) 793-2163

Jumble Sale
Nov. 20, Beaufort
Beaufort Historic Site
9 a.m.-3 p.m., (252) 728-5225

Concert
Nov. 20, Oriental
County Civic & Cultural Ctr.
Violin, piano, (252) 249-3079

Plow Day
Nov. 20, Pinnacle
Horne Creek Farm
(336) 325-2298

The Queen Anne's Revenge
Nov. 22, Beaufort
NC Maritime Museum
Recent Blackbeard research
(252) 728-7317

Christmas Gift-a-rama
Nov. 22-30, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council
Free, (252) 338-6455

Holiday Celebration
Nov. 26, Elizabeth City
Downtown & waterfront
Free, 6 p.m., (252) 338-4104

Holiday Celebration
Nov. 24-Dec. 22, New Bern
Tryon Palace, Candlelight tours
(800) 767-1560

Festival of Trees
Nov. 27-Dec.5, Wilmington
Downtown, Movies theme
(910) 772-5444

A Magical Christmas
Dec. 1, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium,
Famous People Players
(800) 335-9050

Christmas Open House
Dec. 4, Four Oaks
Bentonville Battleground
Civil War Christmas, (910) 594-0789

Candlelight Home Tour
Dec. 4-5, Oriental
Downtown Holiday tour
(252) 249-2859

Swan Days Festival
Dec. 4-5, Swan Quarter
Lake Mattamuskeet, Swans return
(252) 926-9311

Christmas Homes Tour
Dec. 4-5, New Bern
Riverside neighborhood, 17 homes,
crafts, (252) 635-6740

Christmas Open House
Dec. 5, Windsor
Hope mansion & King-Bazemore
house, (252) 794-3140

Christmas Open House
Dec. 5, Wilmington
Poplar Grove Plantation
(910) 686-9518

Christmas Open House
Dec. 5, Creswell
Somerset Place, (252) 797-4560

Festival of Trees
Dec. 5-7, Lumberton
Holiday Inn, For Hospice
(910) 671-5577

Band Concert
Dec. 6, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, Heritage
of America, (800) 335-9050

Choir Christmas Concert
Dec. 10, Elizabeth City
COA Auditorium, $2
admission, (800) 335-9050

Deadlines:
Jan. -- Nov. 24
Feb. -- Dec. 22

A phone number must be included with event listings in order to be published.

Send notices to:
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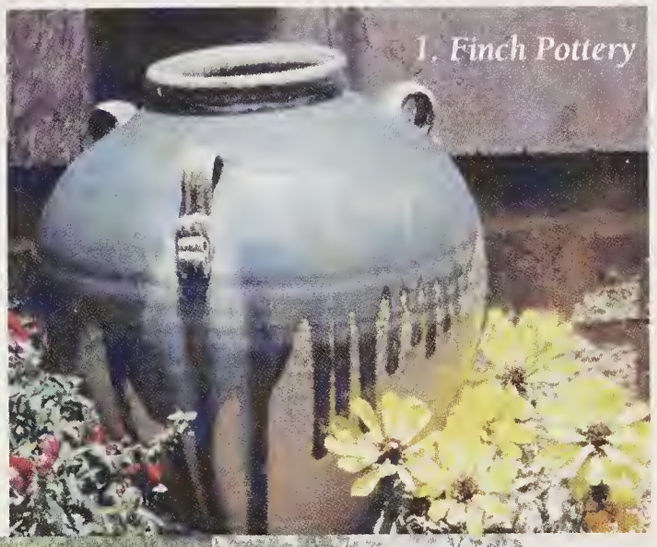
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

FAX: (919) 878-3970
e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

1. Open house, Bailey, Nov. 14
2. Tour Historic Riverside, New Bern, Dec. 4-5
3. Holiday Celebration, New Bern, Nov.24- Dec.22
4. Christmas Open House, Greensboro, Nov.26-Dec. 31


1. Finch Pottery

2. Christmas Homes Tour

3. Tryon Palace

4. Blandwood Mansion

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NOVEMBER

DAY	DATE	EVENT	BUILDING
Thu	4	Holly Day Fair	AE
Fri	5	Hockey: Force vs Huntsville	CL
Fri	5	Holly Day Fair	AE
Fri	5	Fort Bragg Graduation	AD
Fri	5	Methodist Youth Conference	AD/AR
Sat	6	Hockey: Force vs Huntsville	CL
Sat	6	Holly Day Fair	AE
Sat	6	Methodist Youth Conference	AR
Sun	7	Holly Day Fair	AE
Sun	7	Methodist Youth Conference	AR
Thu	11	Hockey: Force vs Memphis	CL
Fri	12	Hockey: Force vs Memphis	CL
Fri	12	N.C. Central Conference	AD
Sat	13	Teachers Job Fair	AE
Sat	13	Executives Unlimited	AR
Sat	13	C.C. Parks & Rec. Cheerleading	AR
Sun	14	AME Zion Church Event	AD
Sun	14	AME Zion Church Event	AR
Tues	16	Gospel Play	AD
Wed	17	Southern Regional AHEC	HP
Wed	17	Gospel Play	AD
Thu	18	Childrens' Theater	AD
Fri	19	Hockey: Force vs Macon	CL
Fri	19	Childrens' Theater	AD
Fri	19	Comedy Show	AD
Fri	19	Central Carolina Poodle Show	AR
Sat	20	Catholic Conference	AE/HP/CL
Sat	20	Talent Show	AD
Sat	20	Lumberton Kennel Dog Club Show	AR
Sun	21	Catholic Conference	AE/HP/CL
Sun	21	Lumberton Kennel Dog Club Show	AR
Fri	26	Hockey: Force vs Columbus	CL
Fri	26	Craftsman's Festival	AE
Fri	26	Spirit of the Dance	AD
Sat	27	Craftsman's Festival	AE
Sat	27	Youth & Family Day	AD
Sat	27	Basketball: Campbell vs UNC Wilmington	AR
Sun	28	Craftsman's Festival	AE

• CL-Crown Coliseum • AE-Expo Center
• HP-Hospitality/Ballroom • AD-Auditorium • AR-Arena
• PL-Parking Lot • TC-Total Complex

Event dates are subject to change.
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HOLLY DAY FAIR
November 4-7

FAYETTEVILLE FORCE
Hockey Season

SPIRIT OF THE DANCE
November 26

BASKETBALL: Campbell vs UNC Wilmington
November 27

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Match Boxes

Match the top rows of boxes with the boxes below them to formulate two multiplication problems. Then solve the problems to find the name of a North Carolina tourist attraction in the two answers.

H	O	Y	C	M	R	K	E	N	I
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

C	N	K	N	R	I

X

N

=

K	M	Y

X

N

=

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
F	N	E	G	L	S	V	I	A

Match the boxes at left with the boxes below them to find a hidden word in the answer to each of the multiplication problems.

N	G	G	G	V	I

X

I

=

S	V	G	S	V

X

I

=

Percy P. Cassidy — Poles Apart

My neighbor is a kleptomaniac.

__ __
Ah ro
_ _ _ _ _ _
t p n a l e
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
h i d o t r a l e
_ _ _ __ __?
w i g a t

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks.
AEFGH IKM NORST means
p o w e r a n d l i g h t

Word Play

WORD → WARD → WAR → WAY → LAY → PLAY

To go from TURN to OVER, you may drop a letter, add a letter, change a letter, move a letter, or transpose two letters, but you can make only once such change at a time.

1. Change direction — TURN
2. Type of vase — _ _ _
3. Move by rapid steps — _ _ _
4. Regret — _ _ _
5. Eggs within a fish — _ _ _
6. To roam — _ _ _ _
7. Ended — OVER

Answers on page 37

by Hank Smith

Collect dried plant materials for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Happy New Century decorations.

Cool nights and chilly days forecast the arrival of winter, when it will be the time for making cuttings of shrubs, planting trees and shrubs, surveying the landscape to determine needed changes, dividing and resetting perennials, cleaning and storing garden equipment, collecting soil samples for analysis by local County Extension office, visiting nurseries and garden centers to select plants for winter and early spring plantings, applying insecticides to control tea scale on hollies and camellias, and refrigerating tulip bulbs a few weeks before planting.

November notes

1. In planting, allow space between a young plant and a wall, walk or driveway so the plant can develop its natural spread.

2. Add healthy fallen leaves and grass clippings to the compost pile.

3. If your garden soil does not stay moist during spring and summer, place hardwood cuttings in a cool spot along the north side of the house or garage.

4. Among shrubs that root best from hardwood cuttings: butterfly bush, abelia, deutzia, weigelia, golden bell (forsythia), althea, nandina, pyracantha, ligustrum, winter bush honeysuckle, hydrangea, Chinese and Japanese hollies, the spirea family and English boxwood.

5. Wait until spring to do any needed pruning of shrubs that bloom in the spring. To do so now will cut away flowering wood.

6. Grass areas should be raked and kept free of leaves or other shade-making covers. Lawns need light even in winter.

7. Newly transplanted large trees should be staked or protected from whipping by wind by use of guy wires. Wrap trunks of hardwood trees such as oaks and sugar maples.

8. A good location for evergreen trees that branch all the way to the ground is toward the back or near the borders of large yards. Examples include Deodar cedar, Southern magnolia. Hemlock and white pine in mountainous areas. Such trees often serve as windbreaks, making the house easier to heat.

Tree and shrub locations

When selecting for fall and spring planting, give thought to the location in the landscape. Consider ultimate size, landscape function it is to fulfill, adaptability to soil type and resistance to insects and disease. Locate large-growing trees such as oak, pecan, maple, Southern magnolia, sugar hackberry and pine at least 40 feet from a building. Small-growing trees such as redbud, dogwood, crape myrtle, peach, apple, golden chain, golden rain, and Chinese tallow may be planted 15 feet from the building. Large-growing shrubs never should be planted beneath windows.

Lawn care

Should you want a green lawn from bentgrass or fescue, make a monthly application of ammonium nitrate. Use three pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Apply from early November through February. Most lawn grasses do best when soil pH is between slightly acid and slightly alkaline. Most grasses benefit from the addition of lime if the pH is less than 6.0. After collecting and submitting soil samples for testing, make a note on the container to indicate that the soil is from a lawn area. It's always advisable to indicate the plants growing on the soil, whether flowers, shrubs, trees, grass or vegetables.

Dwarf fruits

Gardeners who want to plant fruit trees but have limited space will do well to consider dwarf trees. These have been drafted on dwarfing rootstocks so they produce small trees. But fruits are the same size as those produced on normal size trees. Apples are the most popular of dwarf fruit trees, with pears a close second. New varieties are added every few years. Most apple varieties are not self-fruitful. You'll need to plant at least two varieties for cross-pollination.

Groundcovers

Low-growing, spreading plants create an overall united appearance between larger plants. Groundcovers very often can be used where grass will not survive. They're useful where no other plant is suitable because of space limitations. Groundcovers add low horizontal lines to compliment the severe lines of a modern building. The solid and stable appearance created through the use of groundcovers adds unity and stability to the total planting.

Bonemeal to protect plants

Dried blood in bonemeal helps keep deer and rabbits from garden areas. The odor is not apparent to humans, but is a repellent to most rabbits and deer. A natural ingredient, it is also a quick source of readily available nitrogen for plants. Applying too much can burn plants. Use about three pounds of bonemeal (fertilizer formula 15-1-1) per square feet of garden area. Any material containing nicotine also aids in repelling deer and rabbits.

Spinach

High in vitamins A and C, as well as iron, spinach can be grown in autumn as well as spring. Plants tend to bolt in warm weather. Now's a good time to plant, when temperatures are dropping lower as winter approaches.

Topiary accent

An old art now being revived in landscape gardening is the trimming and training of trees and shrubs into unnatural and ornamental shapes. Such plants are used as accents or focal points. One-stemmed shrubs or one-trunked small trees are adapted to such training. Among shrubs useful for topiary are upright junipers, boxwood, Chinese and Japanese hollies. Trees adapted to topiary training include Fosteri holly, red cedar and dwarf cherries. Plants should have newly emerging growth buds clipped away as they appear. Lollipop designs are created by pruning for a ball growth at the end of each branch. Pom-poms are the result of pruning to develop several balls at the end of each branch. Tree-roses with rounding head at the end of a tall stem are the result of grafting growth buds into the bark at the end of the "trunk stem." The use of topiaries can be overdone, too many is too much.

Label it

Even though you think you can remember where everything is planted, it may be difficult to identify all plants after a few months have led to spring time. Use wooden or plastic labels and a marking pen to identify the newly planted additions to your gardens. Popsicle sticks are handy labels. And remember bulbs and perennials are more effective in mass plantings, rather than straight rows as along a driveway or walkway. And mass planting affords easier maintenance.

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AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE. $20 doctor visits, $10 drug card. Medicare supplements, also. 1-800-470-4415.

PPO Health Plans. $10 - $20 doctor visits. Prescription drug card. 1-800-252-6110.

LOW LOW COST TERM Life Insurance. Apply by telephone. 1-800-252-6110.

Financial

HOMEOWNERS – Financial help for debt consolidation, refinancing, cash, foreclosure, bankruptcy, etc. Serious inquiries only please! Call "Janet" at 1-800-538-5388 (ID#128097).

SMALL BUSINESS - Government loans available nationwide! Satisfaction guaranteed! Call: 1-800-226-3601, ext. BF8830 – www.Nationalinfocorp.com.

CREDIT CARD STRESS? Lower payments – Reduce & eliminate interest. No Fee Non-Profit – Free Consultation. American Credit and Debt Management, Inc. 1-800-442-9243.

Recipes

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Percy P. Cassidy

Is he taking something for it?

Match Boxes

#1

CNKNRIxN=CHIMNEY

3868592x8= 30948 72

KMYxN=ROCK

642 x8= 5136

#2

2447 8x8=195582 4

NGGGVI1=FALLING

67467x8=539736

SVGSV1=LEAVES

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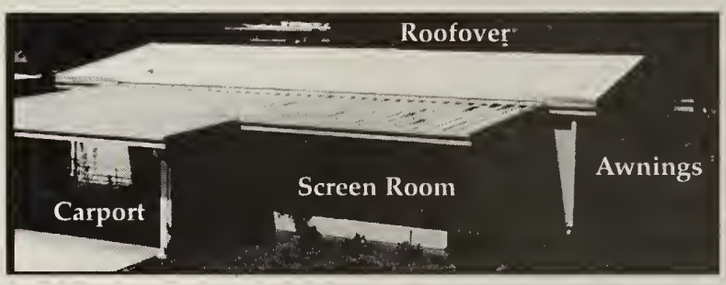

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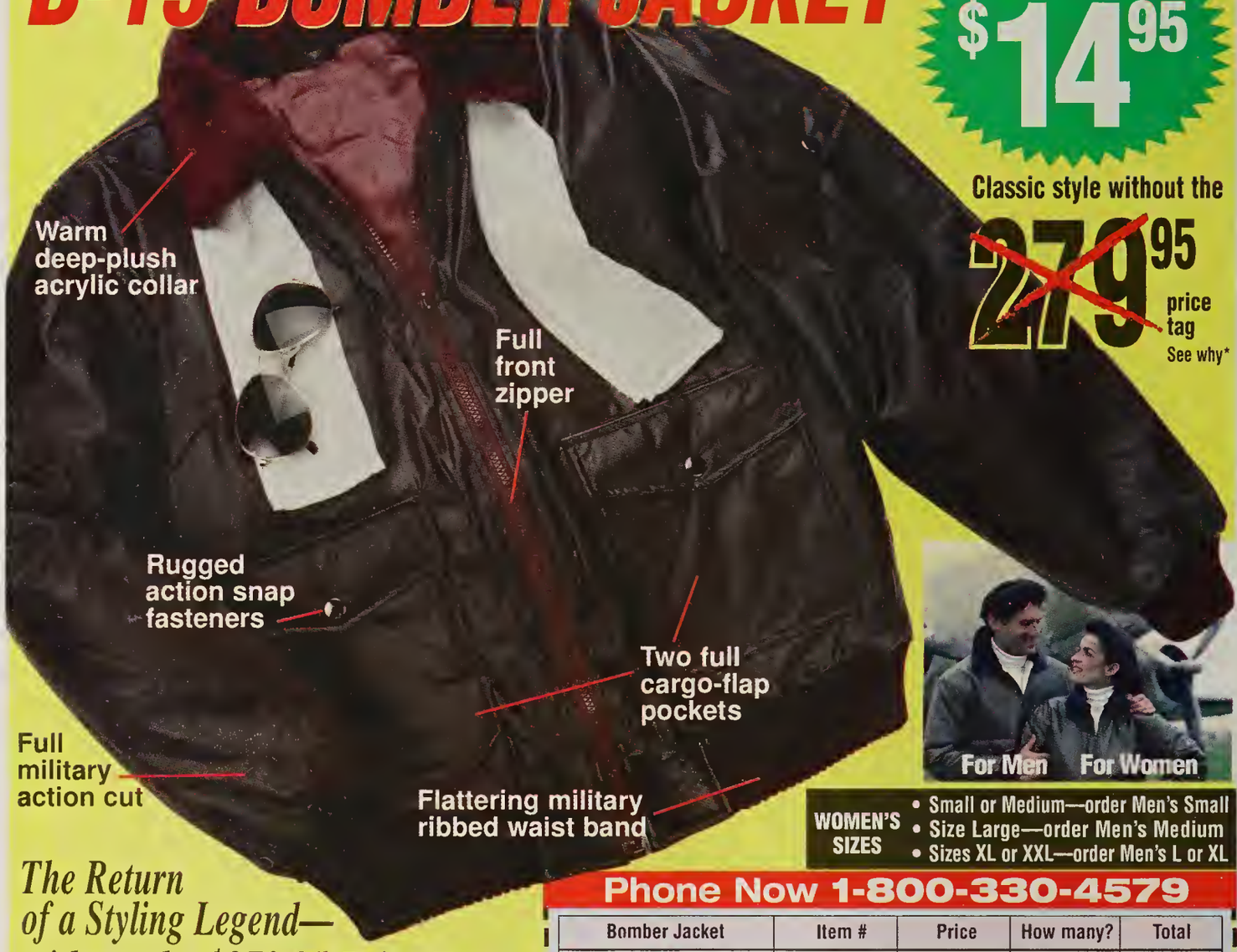
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